



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Summer is such an interesting time in Louisiana. Now we're in hurricane season. Tropical Storm Bonnie had us on high alert, but fortunately she blew herself out before causing any real trouble.

Everyone is also grateful that the Gulf oil spill appears to be on the road to ending. Let's hope weather systems in the Gulf do not put a halt to the progress we are finally seeing. I'm not sure how much more we in Louisiana can take. Seems like we've been a little more disaster-prone than usual over the past few years. It's time for a break!

As usual, this issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is packed with notes and anecdotes about the goings-on throughout the agency. I hope you enjoy reading about your colleagues as much as I do.

One of the features I like best in the newsletter are the success stories that you share. Chef Ron Sonnier shares a story about one of our successful culinary arts students on page 5. That's what our mission is all about, reaching and teaching the youth in our care and custody to become law-abiding, productive citizens.

Let's continue to work together to meet the mission. Have a great month.

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers

The Daily Motivator

Choose peace inside

Peace has no boundaries. To be truly at peace with anything is to be fully at peace with everything.

But how can you be at peace when the world is so relentlessly demanding and complicated? How can you offer peace when you get none in return?

Understand that peace is not a transaction. It is a choice.

Peace is the way you can choose to be, whatever the situation. Peace is a choice that gives you great power in any situation.

You can be peaceful while still being ambitious and fully engaged with life and its many complications. You can be peaceful by following your own authentic purpose and living true to your highest values.

Peace is yours not to wish for, or to force upon others, or to negotiate, but to choose. Choose peace inside, and let the power flow out to your whole world.

-- Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...

PPO 1 Jenna Hill, Hammond OJJ

PPO1 Jenna Hill brings a unique perspective to her work with kids, and although she has only been with OJJ for a year, she has made a mark with the youth she supervises.

"In working with our families, I try to reinforce right behavior and demonstrate an appropriate response to a behavior," Jenna said. "It's about getting a yes behavior from a no behavior. Sometimes I help parents learn the right responses because often the kids will respond to their parents."



"Jenna helps the youth to understand how their lives are impacted through many facets including family patterns, family interactions, education, and future goals," said RM Julie Eudy. "She often goes beyond duty to help youth enrich their lives through different arenas. Jenna makes appropriate referrals to services in the community. She has helped needy youth obtain appropriate clothing. She encourages youth to read and has started a book donation fund to enable impoverished youth to have access to books, which can further enhance their skills, dreams and lives through reading."

"I'm lucky to have people in my life who can donate books and money to people who really need the help," Jenna said. "If you have a little extra, why not help others?" Family members, friends and her church family will often donate. One Thanksgiving, Jenna's church family made sure that one of her OJJ client families had a good holiday dinner.

"I encourage the kids to help out with community service," Jenna said. "I volunteer with the Tangi Humane Society and one of the kids on probation will go with me on occasion. They have helped out on a couple of adoption days, bringing water and walking the dogs. They can see that the animals have no control over their situation."

Jenna came to the position of PPO in roundabout fashion. She started college and left before finishing. She then spent some time in the military as a member of the Louisiana National Guard. "I enlisted in the National Guard to help pay for college," Jenna said. "I was out of the country for two years, deployed to Iraq for over a year and I was in Central America, in Belize and Guatemala. I was a Blackhawk mechanic and crew chief -- I fixed helicopters."

"Each state's National Guard adopts a Third World country, and Louisiana supports

Belize,” Jenna continued. “Every few years the Louisiana National Guard goes on a mission to build roads and hospitals.”

Back in the states, Jenna completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond in 2008. She needed a job and, with her father being in law enforcement, Jenna had a natural interest in that area. “I knew someone who was a juvenile probation officer,” Jenna said. “That’s where I decided to go. Kids need more help and they need a voice. They have more of a chance to improve their lives and go on to better things. I wanted to help kids make their lives better.” The degree in sociology prepared Jenna to be where she is today.

“As her supervisor I have the opportunity to work very closely with Jenna,” said PPS Dawnita Hodge. “From her first day at OJJ, she has presented herself as highly motivated, highly knowledgeable in many areas, eager and willing to learn her job duties and to promote our agency’s Mission and Vision. I have been consistently impressed with Jenna’s positive attitude and productivity during her first year of work for the agency. Jenna has contributed to positive office morale by being an awesome team player. She has also built and maintains positive relationships with community contacts as well.”

“Jenna is very passionate about what she does,” Dawnita continued. “She treats the youth on her caseload and their parents/guardians with respect and if necessary, she finds services to meet each of their individual needs. She spends a lot of time listening to the needs of youth and parents and provides assistance as needed. Jenna does an awesome job of finding solutions to problems that arise both in the field and in the office setting. As part of the OJJ team, I can say that Jenna is greatly appreciated for everything she contributes to the office and the agency. She is awesome!”

“When you’re working with people it’s all about positive reinforcement,” Jenna said.

“You focus on the good behaviors and do whatever you can do to get that behavior repeated. You have to focus on environmental factors. With kids, it may be one little thing that happened at home, or one person that did or said something that caused them to act out, or not go to school. So you have to work on how you can change the behavior.”

“You have to be realistic,” Jenna continued. “Parents need to be the parent, and understand that sometimes their kids are going to be disrespectful. Kids keep on testing you, and keep doing things that have always worked in the past. Parents need to learn to stand their ground and say no. Kids are going to yell, but eventually, when it doesn’t work, they finally stop.”

Jenna said this is called an “extinction burst,” a temporary increase in a negative behavior as the child tries to get their way by acting the way they have always acted to get what they want. When the negative behavior is ignored, eventually the child ceases the unwanted behavior, which finally becomes extinct.

Before becoming a probation and parole officer, Jenna began a dog training business and she is still at it. She says she finds teaching the dogs fulfilling.

Jenna has learned there are therapeutic benefits for kids who work with dogs. “Kids learn empathy and responsibility,” Jenna said. “They learn to express themselves without yelling or continuing to express anger. They learn tonal expression and the appropriate way to get dogs to respond. They learn how to interact with other people. It works the same as a reading program with dogs in the library. Kids’ reading ability and comprehension increase when they read to dogs. The dogs just sit and listen, they are not judgmental and don’t criticize the kids’ reading ability. The dogs provide love and support, and the kids’ reading skills improve.”

“It’s hard to feel fulfilled sometimes,” Jenna said. “During the day you don’t always get a warm and fuzzy feeling with the kids, so I

work to rehabilitate dogs. I enjoy seeing the change in them so I donate my time.”

Jenna also taught cooking classes at Williams-Sonoma at the Mall of Louisiana in Baton Rouge. “I try to do things that I enjoy,” she said.

“I travel a lot,” Jenna said. “I am a certified scuba diver and I enjoy diving and seeing the underwater creatures. Fish have different personalities. The sea turtles in Cozumel have sweet personalities.”

Jenna plans to volunteer at the pelican washing station in Hammond. She said the National Guard will bring oil-covered pelicans from the Gulf of Mexico to a cleaning facility further inland, and of course, Jenna will be there.

Jenna is single and says her kids are all furry. Well, mostly. She has two dogs, a chinchilla and a fish – not surprisingly, all rescues. “I spend my life giving to ‘like critters’,” she said. Jenna gives tender care to OJJ kids as well as the furry ones. Jenna Hill is an excellent example of someone for whom meeting the mission comes naturally.

Employees of the Year

Please join us in congratulating the Field Services OJJ Employee of the Year 2009:

Supervisor: Regional Manager Patricia Newman, Monroe OJJ
Officer: PPO3 Fred Fontenot, Lake Charles OJJ
Support: Walteree Barnes, Program Specialist, Monroe and Tallulah

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?



Border Collie: Just one.
 And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

Transitions

Comings and Goings...

welcome to new members of the OJJ family:

Bridge City Center for Youth

Gregory Harris, Juvenile Justice Specialist 2
Dr. Roy Higgins, Principal
Irielle Jackson, Juvenile Justice Specialist 2

Swanson Center for Youth

Mary Brown – Corrections Food Manager 1

Central Office

Vanessa Tom, IT Director
Curtis Badon, Engineer 4

Jetson Center for Youth

Anne Carter, Administrative Assistant
Johnnie Butler, Juvenile Justice Specialist 1
Sarah Davis, Juvenile Justice Specialist 1
Takeshia Dixon, Juvenile Justice Spec. 1
Jordan Jefferson, Juvenile Justice Spec. 3
Pamela Lodge, Juvenile Justice Specialist 1
Joseph Robillard, Juvenile Justice Spec. 1
Frank Smith, Juvenile Justice Specialist 1

Lafayette

Jamie Baronet, Probation/Parole Officer 1

Monroe

Janice Curvin, Administrative Coordinator

Shreveport

Holly Black – Probation/Parole Officer 1
Anthony Hall – Probation/Parole Officer 1

Promotions

Jetson Center for Youth

Alonzo Jones, Juvenile Justice Specialist 3

Richard Carroll, Juvenile Justice Spec. 3

Retirement

Jetson Center for Youth

Jessie Fisher, Juvenile Justice Specialist 3

Swanson

Jacqueline Wright, Juvenile Justice Specialist 3

SUCCESS

As often as we receive stories about our youth overcoming adversity and the situations they find themselves in, we will print them in *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*. Please keep the good news coming!

Bridge City Center for Youth

By Chef Ron Sonnier, BCCY



Zachary T. was a student of the Culinary Arts and Occupations program at Jetson and at BCCY for over five years. When he first joined the class he was only

16 years old and very rebellious towards any and everything that had to do with discipline. I know I must have written him up at least every day but I was determined to show him that change would make a difference in his life and learning to respect people was very important to his success.

He was released in November 2009 on his 21st birthday. Being indigent he had nowhere to

go but to Covenant House in New Orleans, where he would have a place to live until he got settled. I solicited funds from the staff to get him the clothes and essentials that he would need to get a start in life and want to thank those who were so generous with their donations. He stayed at Covenant House for about four months and secured a job at the Napoleon House Restaurant in the French Quarter about two months after his release. His training in class helped him to establish himself and showed the owners that he was worthy of the job. He started working only part-time while training, for minimum wage. The owners have really taken a liking to Zachary and have hired him fulltime, and raised his salary three times since the first of the year. He is now making around \$11.00 an hour and is so excited about all the things that he is able to do on his own. Zach started out as a line cook and is now doing the cooking for all the large parties in the catering division of the restaurant.

Zach has an apartment and a girlfriend who lives in Baton Rouge. He takes the LA Express to Baton Rouge and back to New Orleans about every other weekend. He said that he has gotten his driver's license and said he is going to rent a car for the 4th of July weekend and come to Baton Rouge in style. He called to wish me a happy Fathers' Day, as he does on a regular basis to remind me that he still loves me and will always be there for me. Zach says that I am truly the only real father he has ever known. I am really proud of the way he is handling himself and the pride that he has in the work that he does. He says he knows more than the executive chef but I told him to keep that under his hat so as not to cause any friction between them. I told him knowledge is something he will not lose, so keep it and put it to work for you as you see the opportunities arise.

Zach says he stays away from the crowds and trouble, and he wouldn't even attend parades during Mardi Gras for fear of getting into trouble. He always shows up for work and is on time. When I spoke with the owners of the restaurant they told me they wish they had

more workers like him. Of course my chest is sticking out a little, but I do miss him in class as he was so helpful in training the new students who looked up to him as a mentor. But I am glad that he is starting to spread his wings and learning to settle into life as a productive citizen. That's what it is all about! Thanks again to everyone for helping to make his start in the world a better one!

Monroe

We at Monroe OJJ would like to share a success story regarding one of our youth. **PPO Steven Pelfrey** has been working with Timothy B., age 16, for over a year. The youth has been in the OJJ system since 2007. Timothy has a history of felony arrests and school suspensions. On June 12, Timothy graduated from the National Guard Youth Challenge Program in Pineville. He was awarded a Counselor's Life Skills Award and a Presidential Physical Training Award. The youth also received his GED while in the NGYCP. When **PPO Pelfrey** informed the court of Timothy's success, **Judge Sharon Marchman** ordered an early release from supervised probation. Good luck to Timothy, and **GOOD JOB PPO Pelfrey**.

New Orleans/Jefferson

By Program Specialist Paulette Carter

On June 11, I was able to attend Judges and Youth Day at Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. The speaker of the hour was a young man who grew up in the foster care system. He discussed some of his experiences while in foster care. Several times he thanked his OCS worker, who was present, for the concern, dedication and compassion that she displayed. The young man noted that he recently earned a BA degree from Xavier University. He intends to remain in school until he obtains his Masters. This young man's mantra is to use your lemons to make lemonade and then share a refreshing glass with everyone around you. How invigorating!

I experienced a revelation while listening to this young man. Sometimes we stop watering seeds that we have planted because we don't see any evidence of growth. But development occurs at different stages so we should never stop nurturing and cultivating our crop...for in due season we shall reap a harvest.

PPO Tanice Henley proudly announced that two youth from her caseload have enrolled in college. WOW! The first, **Hadassah M.**, initially enrolled in Delgado Community College while she was in secure residential placement at Ware Youth Center. While on parole, she took the initiative to apply to Southeastern Louisiana University. "I'm pleased to share that she was accepted and will be enrolled in Criminal Justice courses in the fall. She intends to become an attorney. Her passion is to work within the juvenile justice arena. This young lady's case closed effective June 3, 2010. We wish her the best in her educational endeavors," said **PPO Henley**. The second youth, **Bryan S.**, was released from BCCY on December 17, 2009. He earned his GED while under supervision and will enter Delgado Community College in the fall, where he will major in Criminal Justice. This young man has hopes of being in charge of OJJ someday. We know that dreams do come true.

CQIS Policy Updates

- A.2.4 Employee Awards, 5/9/10
- A.2.33 Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights, 5/28/10
- A.2.19 Special Agents (Commissioned Probation and Parole – Juvenile Officers), 6/8/10
- C.1.8 Firearms Training, 6/8/10
- B.2.13 Early Release, 6/10/10
- A.2.15 Dress Code – Facility and Community Services, 6/21/10
- A.2.49 Worker's Compensation, 6/25/10

Jetson in the News

Baton Rouge, LA – The Advocate
Keeping it Real: Teen says his life
changed inside Jetson

By Chante Dionne Warren,
Advocate Staff Writer
June 26, 2010

When Renis Waters, 18, entered the Jetson Center for Youth in early 2009, he had a callous attitude, respected no one and had no goals in life.

Waters' grandfather, John Parker, admitted he wasn't particularly optimistic that the Jetson facility could do much to help the once-troubled teen turn his life around.

But any option was better than losing his grandson to the streets.

"We were afraid for him. If he'd stayed on the streets, he would not have been with us," Parker said.

Waters' placement into the facility helped redirect his path. On June 11, Waters, who is from Westwego, graduated during a ceremony in the Jetson auditorium at Scenic Alternative High School, where he earned his GED.

Waters plans to attend college and major in business after he is released next spring, he said.

His grandfather is thankful. "Before, we were afraid for him coming here because of what we'd heard about the facility, and **now Jetson has saved his life,**" Parker said.

The center was on the road to closure after the Legislature voted in 2008 to shut it down. The facility had been plagued for much of its history with allegations of brutality against the teens serving time there. It was transformed into a smaller, regional facility in June 2009.

Waters entered the facility as a result of an action he committed that he wished not to disclose.

"I didn't care about anything, and now I appreciate everything. I'm more respectful to myself and others," said Waters, who also discovered he has artistic talents.

Parker agreed. "He's so much a better person," he said.

Waters said his family's love and motivation helped him stay focused. "He (grandfather) believed in me even when I didn't," Waters said.

Other members of the Jetson Center for Youth staff have offered a hand in helping teens change their lives and stay on course.

"There is a great person inside each of you. You are not the lost. You are one of the chosen," Scenic Alternative High School Principal Ronnie B. Knox told graduates.

Another graduate, Trenton Carter, 18, said he has benefited from many programs provided at the facility. Carter, who has served about a year at the facility for undisclosed reasons, said he expects to be released later this summer.

He said the center provides students with educational opportunities and "therapeutic" sessions to help them work through negative attitudes.

"Now I think about my actions before I commit them," he said.

Carter said he plans to get a job and help take care of his younger brother after he is released. Before his placement into Jetson, Carter said he had done some negative things "and I wanted a lot of material things."

Carter said his priorities have changed. "Now I want essential things more than nonessential things," he said.

Carter, who is from White Castle, said that after entering Jetson, he was motivated by other young men, including Waters, who worked on getting their diplomas.

"That encouraged me to get mine, and now I encourage others to do the same," he said.

CPC Training Conducted

By Angela Arabie, ACA Accreditation Manager

Dr. Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D., Professor/Director, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati, recently conducted training workshops on "What Works with Juvenile Offenders in Reducing Recidivism" and the use of the CPC - the Correctional Program Checklist. The "What Works" workshop provided participants with an understanding of the principles of effective juvenile justice programming and emphasized the value and utility of employing evidence-based and research-driven practices in planning, administering, and evaluating programs.

The CPC trainee process involved communicating the overall process and allowing the trainees to shadow the trainers as they actually conducted CPC program audits. Much of the CPC process involves one-on-one interviews with many of the staff of the program, as well as close review of programming materials (manuals, curricula, files). After completing the assessment, the trainers go over everything with the trainees: scoring the CPC, explaining the next steps, answering questions from the trainees, etc. The CPC report is then prepared for the program that was assessed during the training session, and sent to the trainees so they can see the product. One of the most critical parts of the report is the section with recommendations for specific ways the program can improve in the areas of weakness revealed by the CPC process. Program evaluators should be in a position to offer

assistance and advice to the programs on ways to improve.

After the trainees have reviewed the report, they implement the process and information-gathering protocol to conduct their own CPC and prepare a report on a program. Video conferences are held to talk with the assessment team, review their assessments and answer questions. Dr. Latessa and his staff are available to review and assist with scoring of the items on the CPC.



In training at Druesilla's Place are Angela Arabie, Patty Thomas and Alysius Allen, owner of Druesilla's Place.

I was in the group that went to Druesilla's Place in Baker with Dr. Latessa. Other staff who shadowed Dr. Latessa were **Rashied Cormier, BCCY; Carla Leyda, Jetson and Program Specialists Patty Thomas and Lane Plache'.**

Another group went to the Challenge and Development Center in Clinton. The CPC trainer was **Brian Lovens**, and OJJ staff who shadowed him were **Chief of Staff Ellyn Peterson, Administrative Program Director Lynne Geromini, Program Manager Katie Kirkpatrick, Program Specialist Yezette White and Kathy Powell, Swanson.**



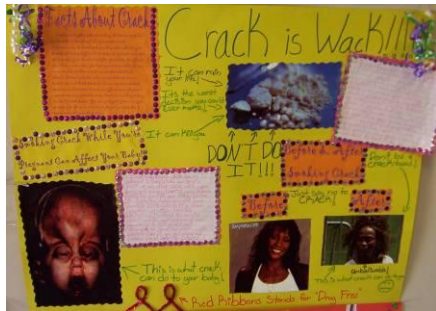
Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?

Restorative Justice Events Across OJJ

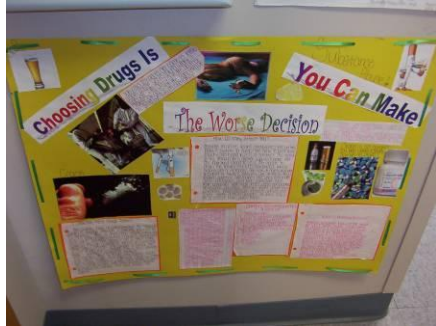
Alexandria

Independence Day was part of discussion during monthly supervision contacts. PPOs provided youth with activities such as word puzzles relating to Independence Day. A church had a "God and Country Celebration" on July 4th and our residential youth were invited to attend.

Alexandria OJJ recognized International Day Against Substance Abuse by having residential clients at Renaissance Home participate in a poster contest. Winners were chosen and given prizes by the group home. All posters were taken to the OJJ office and hung to decorate the lobby. We plan to use restorative justice posters to decorate our lobby on an on-going basis. Youth seem to get excited to know their work is being used as office decoration.



Posters made by Renaissance Home youth, hung in the Alexandria OJJ lobby.



Our day treatment program participated in substance abuse awareness by having students work on a tri-fold bulletin board, which we will also use to decorate our lobby.

Our hope is that our clients can reach their peers through artwork and poster boards. It is refreshing to see many of our youth putting so much research into their projects.

Baton Rouge

In acknowledgement of International Day Against Substance Abuse, Baton Rouge OJJ along with AMIKids-Baton Rouge, sponsored a Substance Abuse Awareness Program at AMI. The program included a guest speaker, video performances and some of AMI's very own talent. The regional office also sponsored group and individual poster contests. The prizes included a pizza party, beach novelties, gift certificates and other small gifts. The program was a huge success. It was apparent throughout the program that a lot of time, effort and thought went into each project. The "Just Say No" commercials were informative, inspiring and absolutely entertaining. We are very proud of each and every one of them. So "hats off" to all the AMI youth and staff for going above and beyond to make the program a success. Kudos to **PPO Cobie Chauvin**, **PPO Naomi Rodney**, **PPO Yolanda Latimer** and **RM Sue Larisey** for their support and participation. A special thanks to AMIKids **Clinical Director Sondra Hayes** for her efforts and invaluable support at all times.



A poster made by youth at AMIKids, Baton Rouge.

Hammond

Several Hammond OJJ clients participated in a poster contest to raise awareness of the International Day Against Substance Abuse. The contest was part of the restorative justice project to enable parents and the community to become aware of substance abuse among youth. **SSCIV Lori Wagner** and **LSCW Daronda Parker-Lathan** provided supplies and root beer floats to participants, as well as cash prizes of \$15.00 for first place and \$5.00 for second and third places. The ECHO Mentor Program provided transportation to the function and assisted the youth with finding a theme and presentation for the posters.



One of Hammond OJJ's posters on substance abuse.

Lafayette

June 26 was designated as Substance Abuse Awareness Day. St. Mary Parish **Officers Kevin Broussard, Blair Johnson and Paige Sieber**, along with **Dr. Sharon Stewart**, gave an anti-substance abuse presentation at the Save Our Children Mentoring Program in Franklin. The mentoring program is utilized by OJJ and the local courts for help with at-risk youth. Youth and parents who attended received information about the effects and dangers of abusing alcohol and illegal drugs.

St. Mary Parish **Supervisor Steve Neef** commented, "I was very impressed with the presentations. Those who attended, including youth, siblings and parents alike, were all very attentive and sincerely interested in what the officers had to say. I think that is because they knew we were not there to make money or

just because it was part of our job to do so. This is primarily a people-oriented job."

Monroe

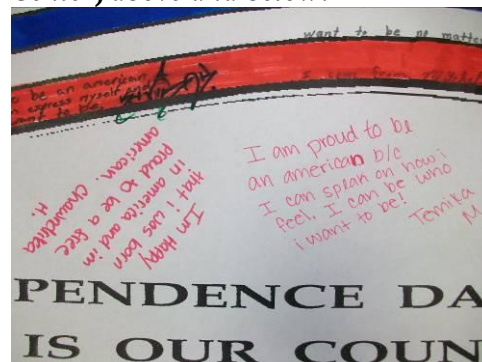
PPS Karl Wallace reports that for its Fourth of July Restorative Justice Project, Monroe OJJ mailed an essay page to youth in every officer's caseload. The artwork for the essay page was created by **Administrative Coordinator Kashka Flintroy**. The youth were asked, "What does the 4th of July mean to you?" The youth received postage paid return envelopes to mail the essay back so we could post their work for public viewing in our lobby. Monroe OJJ awarded prizes to the youth for the top two essays.

Natchitoches/Ware Youth Center

Youth housed at Ware Youth Center were asked to write about "What Freedom Means to Me" on banners created by **Linda Neighbors, Coordinator at Ware Youth Center Group Home**, counselors at Ware Youth Center Group Home and PPOs from Natchitoches OJJ.



Banners inscribed by the youth at Ware Youth Center, above and below.



New Orleans/Jefferson

OJJ partnered with AMIKids on restorative justice activities for our kids. The students of Amikids-Jefferson went into a full curriculum on Independence Day. **Mr. Jones** (Social Studies and Science teacher) gave the students a pre-assessment test to find out how much our students knew about Independence Day. The students learned about the significance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Some of the activities the kids participated in were:

- Reading and discussion on a rewritten version of the Declaration of Independence
- Reading the Preamble to the Constitution and creating a set of pictures to illustrate it Creating a version of the Declaration of Independence in the form of a song, poem, comic strip, or picture book.
- Activity on the topic of the three branches of government.
- Summing Up: students were given a graphic organizer with the event in the middle, and who, what, when, where, why and how, as the boxes that branched off from the event.
- After the activities, a post-assessment test was given to test the students' memory of the material.

The youth engaged in a Myths vs. Fact game on the effect of drugs on their lives. Speakers were **Ms. N. Magee, MSW** with Jefferson Parish Human Service Authority and our own **Roxann Tuircuit, GSW**, Community Based Services. The focus was on prevention: "Your Life is a Terrible Thing to Waste -No More Drug Abuse." There were door prizes and drug free zone wrist bands for our kid as well as Tips for Teens educational material.



*Greyhound: It isn't moving.
Who cares?*

Shreveport

In support of the International Day Against Substance Abuse, Shreveport OJJ conducted educational sessions and sponsored art contests at Rutherford House and AMI-Red River. **PS Jan Crain** served as the judge for the events, and the winning artists were presented with Burger King Gift cards. All youth submitting art projects did a fabulous job, and a collage of the art projects has been assembled for all to enjoy in lobby at Shreveport OJJ.



An art projects by Shreveport youth.

Tallulah

The youth at AMI had a poster contest and wrote essays on why we celebrate the Fourth of July. **PPO Kim Green** met with the residents at Christian Acres and conducted a Bill of Rights Word Search and Independence Day words. All other PPOs discussed the meaning of Independence Day with their youth.

Thibodaux

AMIKids-Donaldsonville had a barbecue in recognition of Independence Day and had a guest speaker who visited the students and talked about the meaning and significance of Independence Day. AMIKids - Bayou Lafourche conducted a poster contest on what it means to be an American. The winner received a \$10 gift certificate from McDonalds.

AMIKids Donaldsonville students give back to seniors; AMIKids 2nd Annual National Service Week

AMIKids Donaldsonville's students from Ascension, Assumption and St. James Parishes visited D'ville Nursing Home (Donaldsonville), Heritage Manor (Napoleonville) and Lutch Senior Center (Lutcher) during their Nationwide Service from the Heart for Seniors in June.

The students played games, participated in birthday parties and assisted the residents in daily activities. The entire AMIKids Donaldsonville staff also participated in the activity by travelling to Riverlands Community Center in Lutcher and played bingo with the residents.

"I think this was a beneficial and an enlightening experience for our kids and staff. It also provided the senior citizens the opportunity to have a day filled with energy and excitement as they interact with the youth and staff of AMIKids Donaldsonville," said **Courtney Joseph, AMIKids Director of Treatment/Event Coordinator.**



AMIKids Courtney and Muriel interact with residents.



Kivari walking a resident to lunch.



AMIKids and Donaldsonville staff

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

Administrative Coordinator Theresa Molliere was chosen **Employee of the Month** for May. She has been a member of the OJJ family since November 2001. Theresa is greatly appreciated by TOJJ staff for her outstanding job with clerical duties. We all enjoy her company as she always makes others smile and laugh. She is an awesome employee and friend.



Rottweiler: Make me.

Thanks!

A special thank you to **PPOs Allison Lirette, Tressa Gros, Jaime Hebert, Keith Kotoski, Herman Matherne and Josef Nguyen** for stepping up and going above and beyond in assisting in the apprehension of two youths who escaped from Bridge City. The youth were apprehended without incident on Sunday, June 13.

TOJJ gave a surprise baby shower for **PPO Heidi Brown**, who is expecting a little girl in August. Everyone enjoyed cake and ice cream. Gift cards to Babies R Us were given to Heidi and her new little one. Congratulations, Heidi. We all wish you a successful delivery and recovery.



PPO Heidi Brown

Swanson Center for Youth

Congratulations, Graduates

Southside Alternative High School held its annual graduation exercises June 4th. Forty-eight youth received their diplomas. Class valedictorians were **Shawn B.** and **Kevin L.** and received the Ally Williams Student of the Year Award. The guest speaker was **Ms. Mitzi Quinn**, of Bastrop, the 2008-2009 Louisiana Teacher of the Year. There was an impressive turnout of family members, staff and visitors for the ceremonies.



Swanson's graduates

Congratulations to Employees of the Quarter

Juv. Justice Spec: Pharonette Carr, JJS 2
Support: Sharon Hall, JJS3
Supervisor: Roy Williams, JJS4
Education: Kimberly Rogers, Instructor
Treatment: Jatansha Jackson, SSC3
Administrative: Donna Bryant, AC4

Instructors present at LAPCAE Meet

Instructors Dr. Rebecca Florsheim and Ms. Teicha Woods recently presented a session at LAPCAE (Louisiana Association for Public, Community, and Adult Education) entitled, "Small Learning Communities and Correctional Education: Where have we been, where are we going, and how do we get there?" The information covered Pestalozzi (a pioneer in modern education) to Austin MacCormick's 5 Components of Correctional Education. Dr. Florsheim and Ms. Woods received a wonderful response from the participants, and enjoyed a great exchange of ideas. Dr. Florsheim said that it was really a good experience.

Youth attend "Prom Night" play

Director Carolyn Atkins, along with several staff and 24 youth recently attended a play at the Monroe Civic Center entitled, "Prom Night." **Mr. Kevin Horn** donated 30 tickets so the youth could participate in this event.

Morale Committee "Caught Staff Doing Something Good"

A Morale Committee was recently formed to come up with ideas to boost morale at Swanson. One of the things we are doing is what we call "Caught You Doing Something Good." The idea came from **Dusty Teer, SSC-5** who does this for the staff she supervises.

At 6 a.m. on June 10th and 24th, Ms. Teer, along with **Ms. Sharri Jones, ATAP III**, set out seeking to catch staff doing something good. When staff were "caught" they received a certificate with a special treat attached. Some of the good things staff were caught doing included mentoring the youth, cleaning the unit, engaging youth during class and keeping things running smoothly and well-structured. The following staff got "caught": **JJS1 Lester Hamlin, JJS Cedrick Stewart, JJS2 Dornesia Harris, JJS2 Felicia Jackson, JJS2 Eureka Brass, JJS2 Lashundra Kelly, JJS2 Ilean McCarthy, JJS2 Charles Wilhite, JJS3 Dorothy Lee, JJS3 Detrick Massey, JJS5 Mitchell Williams, Instructor Bobby Moffett, Instructor Nita Andrews, Instructor Larry McNeal, Program Manager Dan Williams, SW7 Kathy Powell, Marilyn Goldman, Administrative Assistant 3.**



"Getting caught." Sharri Jones, ATAP 3, left, and Dusty Teer, SSC5, right, hold the "get caught doing something good" cards handed out to staff who "got caught."

SCY Staff Bottle Up Cancer

In June 2009, staff from all departments and all shifts of SCY began a project to provide financial assistance to one of their own who was enduring cancer treatments and the expenses that follow. As a bonus, it would help the environment as well. Plastic bottle recycle stations were set up all over the SCY campus and hundreds of bottles were collected. The bottles were taken to a recycler who agreed to give the proceeds to the American Cancer Society. Thus, "Bottle Up Cancer" was born.

It has been a year and, sadly, that employee is no longer with us. However, we have raised \$917.22 for the American Cancer Society in that year. On average, five 50 gallon bags full of bottles are taken out of the gates each week. That is an average of 500 bottles a week and 2,600 hundred bottles kept out of landfills in the past year courtesy of Swanson Center for Youth! We have truly turned trash into treasure, helped the fight against cancer, and kept the SCY campus cleaner. Thank you so very much to each and every SCY staff member who has contributed to this program.....one empty bottle at a time...and thank you **Director Atkins** for promoting this worthy program. BOTTLE UP CANCER!



Jack Russell Terrier:
I'll just pop it in while
I'm bouncing off the
walls and furniture.

Vacation Celebration

by SCY Program Manager Jan James

What I value more than anything are *God, Family, Country and Work*. I am not much for writing or sharing my life with others but there are several turning points in my life that I really want to share, including my family's celebrations of life. So let me take you back to June 6, 2009, and to the present, June 6, 2010.



My sister, Terri James Hayward (right) and I, (left) took off for the adventure of our life last June 6, 2009. Our father passed away April 3, 2009 and we wanted to honor him. He joined the Navy near the end of War

World II and we were celebrating his life. We had special invitations from President Obama to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the D-Day Landing of Normandy.



The cemetery in Normandy, France.

President Obama told a story of a veteran who visited the memorial the previous day and that night he passed away in his sleep. You may be wondering what this has to do

with my father. My sister and I had talked to Daddy about going to Normandy before he passed away. This was a celebration of his memory and the soldiers who died to make us all free.

Again, my sister Terri and I took off on another adventure. This time we had another person with us: her son and my nephew, Thurner Hayward. He graduated from Neville High School in May, and my



The Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor

graduation present to him was a trip to Hawaii. On June 6 we were at Pearl Harbor honoring the

men who died that day. We met a 90 year old Pearl Harbor survivor and listened to his story. We went to the Arizona Memorial and cried and prayed and blessed our men who died on December 7, 1941.

I love adventure and I am a scuba diver. In Hawaii I went diving with Thurner. He had just received his open-water certification and this was his first ocean dive. We saw two octopuses and five huge turtles. What a sight!

As mentioned, I like adventure and did something that I have wanted to do for my entire life. Yes, I rode that wave. I took surfing lessons and DID IT!! It's not easy as it looks in the movies – it is very hard and exhausting. Thurner was a different story. He got up the first time and went surfing every day. Terri, Thurner and I went parasailing right over Diamond Head.

I wanted to share what this country means to me, and that we in FAST Track are now working on a project concerning Pearl Harbor. I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and do not forget the importance of *God, Family, Country and Work*.

Shreveport Regional Office

Welcome

Shreveport OJJ welcomed two new staff - **PPO Holly Black** and **PPO Anthony Hall!** We're happy to have you aboard!

Congratulations

Administrative Coordinator Atejia Glover has been named Shreveport OJJ **Employee of the Month** for June. A.J. is a dedicated employee and a huge help to everyone. Congratulations A.J.!

RM Kristi Martin, PS Jan Crain and **PPS Rick Ladner** attended Dr. Edward Latessa's presentation "What Works with Youthful Offenders in Reducing Recidivism" held at central office.

Shreveport OJJ conducted community after-hour curfew checks under the supervision of **PPS Guy May** and **PPS Steve Martino**. PPOs participating were **PPO Charles Herrmann, PPO Natalie Pope, PPO Sandra Ersoff, PPO Jarred Cram, PPO Jennifer Hill, and PPO Fabrecia Roberson**.

All staff successfully completed the PPCT refresher training held in the office. The training was led by **PPO Daniel Barnard** and **PPO Todd Carlisle**, PPCT instructors for Shreveport OJJ.

Summer Camp for Kids

Shreveport OJJ recently supported the efforts of **Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator**, who sponsors an annual summer camp for youth. PPOs volunteered and assisted Caddo Sheriff's Deputies in serving as camp counselors during the week-long event. Participating were **PPO Todd Carlisle, PPO Jarred Cram, PPO Brandy Stratton, PPO Fabrecia Roberson, PPO LaNita Lars, PPO Jennifer Hill** and **PPO Alan Glover**. The camp is sponsored by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and Boy Scouts of America, and was held at Garland

Scout Ranch in Stonewall. The camp is completely free for kids and targets at-risk boys ages 10-13. The youth enjoyed activities such as the basics of scouting, leadership development, and outdoor activities including swimming, archery, rifle shooting and crafts. The PPOs said they really enjoyed interacting with youth in this setting and felt that they were able to have a positive impact on youth in a proactive manner. Feedback from probation staff and Sheriff Prator was so positive, in fact, that we plan to make this a yearly event for Shreveport OJJ. Special thanks to **PPO Todd Carlisle** (who is himself an Eagle Scout) for coordinating our efforts.



Kids at the Caddo Sheriff's summer camp.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Carl Miller is the newest addition to the staff in Region One. Carl was previously employed as a Field Representative with West Jefferson Hospital where he assisted patients in securing Medicaid and disability benefits. Well qualified man on board!

Stanley Schofield Speaks

PPO Stanley Schofield recently conducted a workshop on criminal justice at the Southern University Ag Center. The goal of the center is to link citizens with opportunities for success. We're sure that PPO Schofield aided them in this endeavor. Mr. Schofield again

utilized his oratorical abilities as the keynote speaker for Second Zion Baptist Church's Scholars and Recognition Awards Program.

Thanks and Kudos

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to staff who worked tirelessly in the effort to apprehend two BCCY escapees. Thanks for your positive attitude, diligence, awesome teamwork and dedication throughout this endeavor. We're the real "A" team!

Special thanks to **Supervisor Shawn Herbert** and **PPO Tanice Henley** for traveling across country to ensure the safe return of a youth who decided to relocate to Seattle, Washington without anyone's consent. Thanks for the many hats you wear!

An appreciation luncheon was recently held for staff. And although the idea originated with **Regional Manager Kelly Clement**, his wonderful **parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Clement**, actually deserve the noteworthy recognition for the preparation and delivery of a scrumptious meal in good ole Cajun tradition. Rumor has it that Kelly's mother's humor far exceeds his. Shush! Please don't spread it as we promised not to tell anyone.



Mrs. Clement serves the staff.



Australian Shepherd: First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle...



RM Kelly Clement, left, with his parents.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations



PPS Kristen McComic was selected by her peers as **Employee of the Month**.

More congratulations

Natchitoches OJJ staff gave **PPO Deanna Williams** a surprise baby shower.



Deanna with her gifts from the staff.

Poodle: I'll just flirt with the Border Collie and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.



Monroe Regional Office

Welcome

Monroe OJJ welcomes **Janice Curvan**, who recently joined our staff as an Administrative Coordinator 3. She previously worked at Swanson. Welcome aboard!

Congratulations

Monroe OJJ celebrates the selection of two of "our family" as **OJJ Employees of the Year 2009**. **Regional Manager Patty Newman** is **Supervisor of 2009**, and **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** was selected **Support Staff of 2009**. We are so proud of them both.

PPO3 Gary Hunter was named **Monroe OJJ Probation Officer of the Quarter**. Gary is a hard working, veteran officer and much deserving of this recognition.



PPO1 Amanda Wilhite, left, and **PPO1 Mark Miller**, right, recently graduated from the North Delta Training Academy and were awarded POST certificates.

Mark was recognized for his academic accomplishments. Congratulations!

Dr. Yolanda Crump from central office recently presented training on Community Based Treatment for Juvenile Sex Offenders to the regional managers, supervisors and probation staff of Monroe OJJ and Tallulah OJJ. Community providers also attended. The training was held at Monroe OJJ.

PPS Linda Williams, **PPS Orlando Davis**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPS Gail Wilson** and **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** recently

attended a presentation by **Dr. Edward Latessa** entitled, "What Works in Reducing Juvenile Recidivism" at the Louisiana State Police Auditorium in Baton Rouge. They reported the training was very informative.

PPS Orlando Davis recently attended Model Drug Court Training held at ULM.

PPS Karl Wallace recently completed Driver's Safety Training for Monroe OJJ staff. He also recently received instructor training from **Katherine Pee, Loss Prevention Officer**.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Good News

PPO Angie Stevens announced that one of her clients, **A.R.**, is a "Taylor Scholar." This honor was presented to him for excelling during the school year and for having at least an overall 3.0 GPA. He was given a one year membership to the Audubon Aquarium and Zoo, as well as the New Orleans Museum of Art. We are very proud of him and this accomplishment!

Two of **PPO Ronald Gilchrist's** former probationers graduated from Welsh High School, and one plans to pursue a college education.

Thanks

PPO Karli Pullard and **PPO Garrick Chambers** completed a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training at McNeese State University. They learned how to deescalate situations involving people with mental health needs. It also gave them an opportunity to network with other law enforcement agencies and local providers to assist our office in the future. Thanks to **Karli** and **Garrick** for taking time out to attend such a valuable training,

PPO Monet Newman and **PPO Alexis Heflin** will soon teach a class, Juveniles Accepting Responsibility for Shoplifting, to some of the youth involved with OJJ, to give them information on the effects of shoplifting and provide a way to hold them accountable for their actions.

PPO Garrick Chambers and **PPO Fred Fontenot** brought youth from Boy's Village and youth from the community to a Swashbuckler's Arena Football game. Everyone had a great time and all the youth were well-behaved. We appreciate **Garrick** and **Fred** showing initiative with our clients!

RM Ann Vick is organizing the Suicide Prevention and Intervention for Children and Youth (S.P.I.C.Y.) walk in the Lake Charles area, to be held in September. Kudos to **Ms. Vick** for being involved in an endeavor to help youth in our community.

Best Wishes

PPO Rebecca Harmon is out of the office due to illness. Please keep **Rebecca** and her family in your thoughts and prayers. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope she can return to work soon!

Congratulations

PPS Delisa Clark's son, Logan, earned awards for Honor Roll, Citizenship and the highest Reading Level in his class at T.H. Watkins Elementary School. Logan read over 100 books during the school year!

PPO Monet Newman's son, Landon, recently graduated from kindergarten at Gillis Elementary School.

CWA Erline Pierce's grandson, Christopher Soileau, recently graduated from kindergarten at Kinder Elementary School.

PPS Ken Vidrine's granddaughter, Addie Miller, recently graduated from Pre-K at

Maplewood Elementary School. **Mr. Vidrine** is proud to report that Addie is a star swimmer!

Lafayette Regional Office

Welcome

Lafayette OJJ welcomed **Jamie Moore** as a PPO, assigned to Iberia Parish. Jamie joins us from the VOA Day Program in Lafayette, where she served as director. Jamie knows many of the youth, and knows the special needs of the at-risk youth we serve.

Congratulations

Jonathan W., a resident at AMI Kids-Acadiana group home, and a client of St. Landry Parish **Officer Andre Harrison**, recently participated in the AMI Summer Olympics. Jonathan received the \$500 Judge Gladstone Leadership Award. The award was presented by former New York Giant Walter Hayes. Jonathan also scored a 21 on his ACT, achieved his GED and is planning on attending LSUE. Way to go, Jonathan!!

Thanks

As a certified Operation Lifesaver Instructor, Iberia Parish **Officer Cassandra Gardiner** enjoys putting on Operation Lifesaver presentations. In June, PPO Gardiner gave three classes at Evangeline Elementary in Lafayette, speaking to 1st graders, 2nd graders, 3rd graders and 4th graders. PPO Gardiner is enthusiastic about being an Operation Lifesaver Instructor, because anything she can teach children about safety is near and dear to her heart.

The VOA Day Program in Lafayette recently held its Juneteenth celebration. The students and faculty at the program invited the staff of Lafayette OJJ to join them for lunch and games. Several PPOs and supervisors braved the heat and had a fantastic time with the day program. VOA Day **Program Director**

Marlice Young-Dugas said the youth at the program had a wonderful time with our staff.

Jetson Center for Youth

Congratulations



Scenic Alternative High School **Principal Ronnie Knox** was recently married in a lovely ceremony at Lake House Reception Center in Baton Rouge. The Education staff and Director Daron Brown attended the beautiful wedding. Ronnie and Michelle honeymooned with a seven-day cruise in the Caribbean. Michelle is Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician with FMC in Baton Rouge. Mr. Knox reports that they met while standing in line at a convenience store and he proposed five years later. We wish the Knoxes a long and happy life together.

Welcome to New Members of the Staff - Scenic Alternative High School



We are pleased to welcome **Anne Carter** to the educational staff. She will serve as Administrative Assistant for Mr. Knox and will assist the faculty in accomplishing their goals. Anne was previously the administrative assistant to the Chief of Operations at central office, and has 8 years' experience working at Jetson. Anne

is getting the school office organized and doing a great job. Thanks for choosing to work with us.

Another new face at the school is **Kimberly Ringgold, English teacher**. Her previous experience was in East Baton Rouge Parish, St. Helena Parish, and outside Louisiana. She is a graduate of Southern University. The faculty is pleased that she will be part of the team. Welcome Ms. Ringgold.

Graduation: Reaching for the Top!

Reaching for the Top was the theme of Scenic Alternative High School's graduation ceremony held in June. Ten graduates were recognized for the 2009-2010 school year. **East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Melvin "Kip" Holden** was the keynote speaker. The students were on the edge of their seats during his presentation. The Mayor spoke of his early childhood experiences that included domestic violence, parental drug dealing and deaths of relatives. However, he continued on a path of positive decision-making and strived to better himself through education and hard work, earning several college degrees along the way. Mayor Holden emphasized that right choices are the best choices and that our youth will greatly benefit from making right choices.

Valedictorian of the graduating class was **Stanley W.**, and the **Salutatorian** was **Aguinalda L.** Awards were given for outstanding grade averages in writing, reading, math, science, and social studies.

Dr. Mary Livers also spoke to the youth and encouraged them to strive to complete their education. She encouraged them to read, read, and read some more. She complimented the graduates and told them are on the right path to success. **Kim Mims, Director of Education**, announced the graduates and **Ella Fairchild, Coordinator of Education**, assisted **Principal Ronnie Knox** with presentation of diplomas. Jetson **Director Daron Brown** congratulated the

graduates and thanked the staff for their work to educate and protect the youth in our care.

After the graduation, a reception was held in the gym, and then the graduates were treated to lunch at a local restaurant. Staff who accompanied the graduates included **Director Daron Brown, Belinda Thomas, Shera Knighten, James Spears, Demetria Sheppard, Andrea Barnardez, Carrie Stewart, Gail Hargrove** and **Principal Ronnie B. Knox**. The youth enjoyed seafood platters and dessert. The group had a delightful time and look forward to the next graduation in 2011.

Students Succeed in Vocational Education at Scenic Alternative High School

Two students, ages 18 and 19, recently successfully completed the national examination for two and four stroke engine repair. The certificates are a part of a national register and will follow them into their community where they can seek gainful employment.



Congratulations to **Troy M.** from the Lafayette area, and **Darren H.** from the East Baton Rouge region. They are excited about getting to this level in their trade and looking forward to the future. **Instructors Larry Poor** and **Samuel Butler** are to be commended for their efforts in working to improve the skills of their students. *They have produced more national certified students than any other training program in the nation.* Whoa! What an accomplishment. Pictured are *Instructors Samuel Butler, left rear, and Larry Poor, right rear, with newly certified students Troy and Darren.*

Small Engine Repair Program Receives Praise

A letter to Edward Green, Title 1 Coordinator, Division of Education, from the Equipment and Engine Training Council, Inc.

May 2010

Dear Mr. Green:

I am writing to let you know how the proctors at the Jetson Center for Youth are doing as far as giving tests for the EETC. Mr. Larry Poor and Mr. Samuel Butler put forth a great deal of effort, working with the people in their facility to make sure they get the best education possible to complete and pass our tests. Their record of having students pass the tests is one of the best throughout the facilities that offer the testing in the USA. They do a great job in making sure that the students have a good chance at making a good life upon their release.

Thank you for your time,

Betty Grice, EETC Certification Center

Tomatoes, To-matoes at the Horticulture Class

Dr. Patrick Hagwood, **Director** of the LSU Burden Research Center on Essen Lane in Baton Rouge, is a strong supporter of the horticulture program at Scenic Alternative High School at Jetson Center for Youth. Dr. Hagwood has donated research plants and fertilizers. Most importantly, he has taught Instructors Samuel Butler and Larry Poor the techniques of procreations.

Students installed an irrigation system to water the beautiful tomato plants given by Dr. Hagwood. The plants are automatically fed nine times each day. The plants are growing from the top downward - this technique can be seen at Disney World Orlando where they grow most of the food that is served in one of the Disney restaurants.

The instructors and students are in the process of cross pollination so more plants can produce fruit. They are eager to see how the growing season will progress. So far, so good!

When you visit Jetson Center for Youth, come by for a student-conducted tour of the greenhouse and planting process. Who knows, maybe a ripe, red, juicy tomato will be waiting for you.

Guest teachers enhance instruction



Mr. Clark Wells, standing at left in the blue shirt, and Mr. David Beasley, standing at right, give a demonstration for instructors and students on the importance of oil and grease. Principal Knox said, "I want to thank Mr. Beasley for taking time out from your busy schedule to share with our students the important work you do with oil and grease. The students had great questions and were really engaged in this demonstration. Great job Mr. Poor and Mr. Butler."

Vocational Education receives donation

The Greater Baton Rouge Council of the Navy League of the United States generously donated \$1000 to the vocational program at Scenic Alternative High School. This contribution will be used to purchase necessary supplies, small tools and planting materials for the students to use for their education. "Extra funds often make the

difference in skill development when the right tools are available to get the job accomplished," said Principal Ronnie Knox. "It is encouraging to know that there are community organizations interested in the youth that we teach. Together with Mr. Poor and Mr. Butler, we are ever mindful of our expectation for the youth to return to their communities and become productive citizens. We are grateful to the community partners that have embraced our youth at Scenic Alternative High School."



From left, Samuel Butler, Principal Ronnie Knox and Larry Poor with the donation received from the Council of the Navy League of the United States.

Flying High with Success

The last CQIS audit was conducted in May, with results completed in June. The education section of the audit yielded great results. The compliance section of the audit scored 95 percentage points and the contextual component was rated 2.6 out of a possible 3.0. The leadership team and the entire faculty worked very hard to accomplish the high expectations of the audit instrument. The faculty works as a team with everyone assisting with the activities necessary to have a successful audit. **Principal Ronnie Knox** leads by example and endeavors to have the best possible educational environment for youth. Hats off to the entire school for a job well done!

Scenic Alternative High School's Teacher Appreciation

Principal Ronnie Knox and **SSD Site Coordinator Monte Burke** teamed with Title I **Director Ed Green** to sponsor a luncheon for teacher appreciation in June. The teaching staff of Scenic Alternative was treated to a wonderful array of delicious food. Mr. Knox furnished the fish and Mr. Burke provided the potato salad. **Carrie Stewart**, math teacher, prepared rice dressing, peas and several delicious desserts.

Mr. Green and friends prepared the fish and fries on-site while being observed by teachers and **Director Daron Brown**. They shared their recipe for coating the fish prior to deep frying. A special thanks to them for making time to spend with the faculty.

After everyone was finished eating, Mr. Knox presented three faculty members with plaques for special appreciation. Science teacher **DeWayne Nedie** was selected **Employee of the Quarter**, **Andrea Barnardez**, language arts teacher, was selected **Teacher of the Year** and **Carrie Stewart**, math teacher, was recognized for her service as "lead teacher" in Mr. Knox's absence. This was a wonderful celebration for a faculty that works diligently every day for the students and strives to fulfill the mission and vision of the agency.



Enjoying the teacher appreciation event are educators Gail Hargrove, Denise Clause, Andrea Barnardez and Carrie Stewart.

Jetson Holds Employee Appreciation Day



Enjoying the employee appreciation event are Carla Leyda, Barbara Bell and Katherine Erwin.

In May JCY honored the staff with an Employee Appreciation program. The employees were thanked for all of their hard work, the numerous hours they spend away from their families, but most of all for their dedication to the youth and the facility.

The program included door prizes, skits and of course, a meal prepared by JCY's very own **Andrea Young**. The menu, supplied compliments of all of JCY supervisors, included fish, brisket, shrimp fettuccini, green peas, green salad, potato salad and of course desserts.

Below are some quotes from the program:

"Feeling appreciated is one of the most important needs that people have. When you share with someone your appreciation and gratitude, they will not forget you. Appreciation will return to you many times." Steve Brunkhorst

"Be verbal in acknowledging your appreciation." Catherine Pulsifer

"Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart." Seneca

Thanks to our volunteers

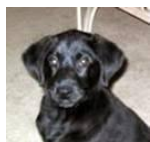
The Knights of Columbus Council 8601 of Saint Patrick Catholic Church prepared and served hot dogs, sausage and hamburgers for the youth and staff in June. The meal was very good and the youth and staff enjoyed it. Thanks, Knights of Columbus.

In June, 43 members of Foothill Baptist Church from Phoenix, Arizona, performed at JCY. The performance was powerful and

uplifting and the youth were very receptive and attentive. The youth from Foothill sang, performed skits and of course they danced. At the end of the program the youth were invited to write down the one sin that they wanted God to help them remove. After writing the sin on a piece of cloth it was taped to a cross and powerful prayers began. It was overwhelming to see all the youth participating. The youth were still talking about the program the next day. **Shanna Gallo**, the group organizer, praised **Director Brown** and the facility staff for the changes they have observed over the past five years. She said they were pleased to see the happiness of the youth and the bright colors in the gym.

Youth and Staff visit Southern University

In June, **Director Daron Brown** and **Program Manager Belinda Thomas** escorted two youth, **Stanley** and **Carlos**, to the 2009 Family and Youth Expo at Southern University. Director Brown, Stanley and Carlos spoke words of encouragement to the high and middle school youth attending the session titled "Juvenile Justice." Director Brown expressed to the youth the importance of respecting yourself, getting an education and setting goals. The youth explained how important it is to get an education, stay out of trouble, and to pick your friends carefully. The group enjoyed a luncheon and later in the evening attended dinner and enjoyed a talent show at the M.A. Edmond Livestock Arena. The evening ended with Director Brown treating everyone to ice cream at Baskin and Robbins.



Lab: Oh, me, me!!!! Pleeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeeeeze, please, please.



Director Brown, left, our youth, center, and Belinda Thomas, second from right, at Southern University.

JCY Celebrates Mother's Day

In our efforts to create a more diversified program and a more home-like atmosphere for our youth, our youth and staff honored mothers for Mother's Day at *Le'Spring Bistro* (a name created by staff and youth) in Spring Dormitory. The dormitory was transformed into an extravagant restaurant. Tables dressed in white linen were decorated with beautiful place settings and rose petals that surrounded a pearl centerpiece accented with tea lights. This event was held so that the youth could express thanks to their mothers and special guests who have been an inspiration in their lives. Ten mothers/aunts attended this special event.

Each youth was allowed to invite two guests from the campus, including staff from education, youth care, medical, social services and administrative staff. Other guests included **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis**, and **Brother Rudy** from a community church. As the guests arrived the youth greeted them and escorted them to the dormitory. Spring staff provided a gourmet luncheon that consisted of lemon herb rotisserie chicken, southern fried fish, rice pilaf, spring pasta, green beans, garden salad and various desserts. The guests and youth ordered from the menu, and male staff members served as waiters. A program was presented by Spring youth and staff. **Bishop**

Samuel Butler was the guest speaker. At the end of the event each youth presented their mother/guest with a gift bag and a rose.

The program was heartfelt and beneficial to both staff and youth. It gave us the opportunity to put a face with the voice on the other end of the phone. What has been business as usual in the past has turned into a family atmosphere as we have developed a more personal relationship with our parents. Programs such as this give our parents an opportunity to see what really goes on inside the facility. One parent said that she had concerns about what really went on inside the facility, but now she feels that her son is well cared for and safe. One mother began to cry as her son walked down the walkway to greet her. As the parents were leaving they hugged the staff and told them that they "loved them." Through this special event we have continued to meet the mission and vision of our agency by embracing family and community. The youth stated that they are looking forward to more events that include family members and the staff is anxious to meet this goal.



Jetson staff and guests enjoy the Mother's Day celebration.



Old English Sheep Dog:
Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I
don't see a light bulb!

JCY Observes Fourth of July

Jetson had a full day of Fourth of July activities, starting with a track meet including 100 meter and 200 meter races and a 400 meter relay, sack race, egg toss, balloon throw, bottle toss and musical chairs, followed by a luncheon that included hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue chicken, baked beans, spaghetti and cheese, snow cones, ice cream and watermelon. In the afternoon, a talent show was held, along with a basketball tournament and award presentations for the track and basketball winners. Prizes were given for all activities.

Hammond Regional Office

Congratulations

The Hammond OJJ **Superstar for June** is **Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues**. She was recognized by RM Julie Eudy for her assistance in scheduling the training room for a TSSC meeting.



Hammond OJJ's Superstar Board

Officers attend Chamber's End of School Bash

PPO3 Kasey Wall, PPO1 Jenna Hill and PPS Dawnita Hodge attended the Hammond Chamber Community Development Committee's "End of School Bash" in May at Mooney Park in Hammond. Public safety and awareness education was the main focus.

Hammond OJJ set up a table and provided attendees with literature about substance abuse and parenting skills. They also had a project board displaying the agency's name, mission, and vision statements. Hammond OJJ representatives played tic-tac-toe with kids and gave out frozen treats. Numerous community leaders and organizations attended, including the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, Hammond Police Department, North Oaks, Tangipahoa Parish Fire Department and OFS.



PPO3

Kasey Wall, PPO1 Jenna Hill and PPS Dawnita Hodge represent OJJ at the Hammond Chamber's "End of School Bash."

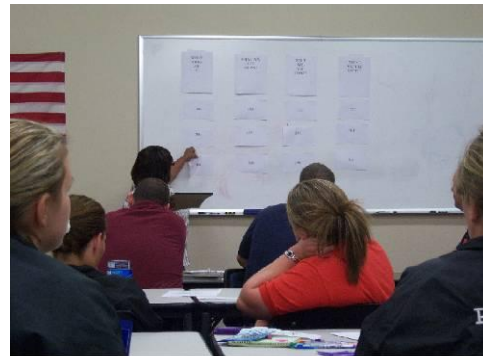


Lauryn Lathan, daughter of LCSW **Daronda Lathan** and Freddie Lathan, III, was a state finalist in the Louisiana National American Miss pageant in May. Lauryn placed in the top 10 in the Jr. Pre-Teen category for the personal interview, personal introduction,

community involvement and formal wear competition, where she was escorted by her proud father. She was the First Runnerup in Art, Fourth Runnerup in both the casual wear modeling competition and talent competition. This was Lauryn's first year competing in a state-wide pageant. She has been invited to showcase her talent and modeling abilities as a National Finalist in Hollywood, California.

Staff play games to increase knowledge of substance abuse

During the monthly staff meeting, **LSCW Daronda Parker-Lathan** set up a "Jeopardy" type game to increase staff knowledge of substance abuse. Staff was broken into two teams and competed for a pizza day at the office. Each staff member who correctly answered a question received a prize. The game ended in a tie, and Daronda surprised staff by giving us ALL a pizza day!



Playing "substance abuse Jeopardy."

Central Office

The ladies of OJJ celebrated Father's Day for the men of OJJ with a special Father's Day Event. The Father's Day Planning Committee included **Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Katherine Abrams, Dorothy Walker, Becky Richardson, Latrice Bracken, Martha Morgan and Phyllis Martello.**

There were sub-committees for set-up, clean-up, food pick-up servers, and door prizes. Some prizes were purchased but most were donated. We received donations from **Katherine Abrams, Nancy Gautreau, Shannon Howell, Kim Lemaire and Becky Richardson.**

The men gathered in the library and **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis** gave them a thank-you for their roles in the lives of children, whether directly or indirectly. The men pulled name tags with pseudo names that

they were to wear for the day. Some of the names were preselected for door prizes.

Winners were **Wade Campbell-Mr. Courteous**; **Sean Labat-Mr. Frugal**; **Ed Green-Mr. Intelligent**; **Chris Allen-#1 Sports Fan**; **Shawn Sellars-#1 Sportsman**; **Chad Wells-Mr. Personality**; **Tony Square-Mr. Considerate**; **Girard Melancon-Mr. #1 Chef** and **John Anderson-Mr. Responsible**.

The delicious meal was catered by the DPS Cafeteria and included barbecued ribs, barbecued chicken, rice dressing, potato salad, rolls and sheet cake. The punch was made by Katherine Abrams.



The men of central office enjoy a Father's Day feast provided by the ladies.



Most of the pseudo nametags were spot-on descriptions of the wearers.



Boxer: Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.

Congratulations



Dr. Livers recognizes Col. Louis Hyatt, Director of Investigative Services, who was recently featured in the Best in the Business/June issue of ACA's publication, Corrections Today. Col. Hyatt's vast experience in law enforcement and steadfast treatment of OJJ youth with respect were noted in the article.



Applications Programmer Shannon Howell, center, was recognized for exemplary service and outstanding accomplishments. Presenting a certificate of appreciation were Applications Project Leader Sean Labat, left, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Philippe Magloire, right. Shannon was cited for creation and monitoring of exception reports for JETS data cleanup, resulting in over 2400 data corrections to date.

Program Specialist Lane Plauche reports that his **son Christian**, who graduated from high school in May, is now an international runway model. Lane's wife, on a whim, sent Christian's photo to a modeling agency in New York. Well, they hired him. He has already modeled for Calvin Klein, Prada and others, and has been to Milan, Italy, Paris, France and other places. The modeling agency is VNY New York and their website reports that Christian "debuted at the Jil Sander show, this 18 years old guy from Lafayette is obviously a looker." We agree.

Bridge City Center for Youth

BCCY holds spiritual programs for youth

The Religious Services Program was held Saturday, July 10 in the gymnasium. The program incorporated an explosive performance by God's Property Mime Ministry and Troops from New Zion Christian Family Worship Center and an inspirational speaker, **Corey Hicks**. The youth weren't only musically entertained, but given the opportunity to be spiritually engulfed by the powerful message of **Pastor James Autry** with Cornerstone Christian Center, who opened the program with a prayer.

Saturday's event covered mime dance, gospel rap and inspirational words as well as devotion, including an altar call in which 30-40 youth participated. The religious services program was a "hit" according to the intense faces of the youth seated in the bleachers. This event was truly a celebration. The youth were still talking with Group Leaders about how much they enjoyed the event afterwards.

Along with BCCY staff and youth, guests who attended the program were **Pastor Autry's wife Frances Autry**, **Carolyn Spears**, **Mavis McCall**, **Cheryl Archille** and **Cheryl Patterson** of Cornerstone Christian Center. Ms. McCall was instrumental in helping plan this program for our youth.

We, as a team, ensure the youth are getting not only their physical, mental and emotional needs met, but also their spiritual needs.

Youth visit college campuses

Inspiring, motivating, encouraging describes the campus tours to Dillard University and Delgado Community College. In May, **Youths Gerald M., Zachary M., Jonathan P. and Kody G.** from **Hope Dormitory** were allowed to explore the two college campuses and obtain information on the programs and options available. These young men have expressed an interest in pursuing a higher education and were very appreciative of the opportunity. The tour guides were engaging and informative, allowing the young men to get all of their questions answered. The young men were accompanied by **Therapist Sam McKay**, **AGL Denise Gasquet** and **Mentor Amanda Stokes**.



BCCY youth visit college campuses to explore the possibility of obtaining higher education.



Baton Rouge Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Brandon Woods was selected **Employee of the Month** for June.

AA Christina Graham's son, Bobby, graduated from the Christa McAuliffe Adult Education Center.

Farewell

Baton Rouge OJJ wishes **PPO Stephanie Michetti** and **PPO Myron Theriot** a warmhearted farewell and best of luck in their future endeavors. We are sad to see both of them leave, and they will be greatly missed.

Hats Off

We would like to say "Hats Off" to **PPO Myron Theriot**, who joined our country's Armed Forces to serve, fight and protect our country. You are truly one of OJJ's finest!



German Shepherd: I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, checked to make sure I haven't missed any, and made just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.



Cocker Spaniel: Why change it? We can still make a mess of the house in the dark.

Alexandria Regional Office

Regional Manager Johnny Qualls participated in the Outback Steakhouse Lock-Up on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The event was a great success, with Johnny raising \$595.

PPO2 Trinity Adams participated in the Youth Challenge graduation ceremony for a former client. The youth received numerous awards and plans to pursue a career in the military.

Supervisors attended Dr. Ed Latessa's presentation in Baton Rouge in June.

In June staff participated in the Community Based Sex Offender Treatment training held at OJJ Alexandria, presented by **Dr. Yolanda Crump**.

PPO3 Rodney McNeal gave a lunchtime presentation for the local Optimist Club in June.

Several staff members participated in the effort to catch the BCCY escapees in New Orleans.



How many cats does it take to change a light bulb?

Cats do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is:

'How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?'

Recipes of the Month
BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations
Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC

The one treat that is so special at BCCY is our Famous Lemon Squares. The students have become quite the master at preparing them for guests who visit our campus.

Recently we had a visit from Judge Dawn Amacker of the 22nd JDC, St. Tammany Parish, and she was so impressed with everything the students had prepared. She told the students that she was also proud of the way they were preparing themselves for their future. The students are always happy to show off their talents and feel so good when the compliments come from the hearts of those who get to share in their work.

This month we share two recipes and hope you will try them it out. The tea recipe will help cool down these hot summer days and is a special treat for a family outing.

If we can help anyone with a recipe or cooking questions feel free to send an email with your questions and I will be more than happy to get back to you. Enjoy your summer and impress your friends and family with this great recipe!

--Chef Ron Sonnier



Famous Lemon Squares

Crust:

1 cup butter
 2 cups sifted flour
 ¼ tsp salt
 ½ cup powdered sugar

Mix above ingredients and pat into bottom of 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350° degrees for 20 minutes.

Topping:

4 eggs, beaten
 2 cups granulated sugar
 4 tbsp sifted flour
 5 tbsp lemon juice
 1 ½ tbsp grated lemon zest

Mix above ingredients and pour on top of baked crust. Put back into 350° degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes. When cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar. Makes 24.



Our Favorite Iced Tea

2 cups sugar
 2 cups water
 2 cups strong freshly brewed tea
 1 tsp. vanilla extract and 1 tsp. almond extract
 1/2 cup lemon juice
 Enough cold water to complete a gallon

Put sugar and 2 cups water in a saucepan, bring to a boil and cook for 1 minute. Pour into a pitcher and add brewed tea, extracts, lemon juice and cold water. Stir well and chill. Pour tea over ice.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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